

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

Maëlle Rihouey summer research

Emily Tews
etews1@uwsuper.edu

Maëlle Rihouey is a current junior here at UW-Superior. She's an international student from France, majoring in public leadership and changemaking with a double minor in communications and gender studies. She has had major success and recognition through her research after a summer fellowship in the summer of 2025.

Rihouey applied for her summer fellowship through her advisor, Haji and the Link Center, and was granted a developmental grant for summer research to be able to research and put together a poster presentation for the campuses symposium in October, after which, she took her research and applied it to different opportunities.

Rihouey's research focuses on how women's discussion of sports affects French people's perception of a minority and found that there were four main reasons for this: racist stereotypes, gender specific discrimination, representation in the media, along with conceptions that French people have about what it means to be French.

When it came to choosing this topic, Rihouey said that for her it was because she is from France. "I have had like, maybe not the experience, but I have seen it happening through social media, and things like this," she said she "wanted to highlight this even more because outside of France, people don't know."

Rihouey pointed her research towards women's sports because of the output of things that she was seeing from the Paris Olympics, saying "That's when I was like, okay, this is why this is happening, I was scrolling through TikTok and I would see stuff, and I was like, this should not be happening."

Rihouey shared that a majority of her research process was largely done through digging into what international politics and French politics, rules and regulations had to say, sharing that, "Actually, most of my summer was reading arti-

cles and learning more about this and that, and you read about one topic and then that brings you to another one."

Presenting her research beyond UW-Superior's symposium has been very exciting for Rihouey. From presenting in Madison at a Women and Gender Studies Consortium, along with presenting in Virginia at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research.

Rihouey shared that the presenting process "can be stressful at first, because you don't want to forget key info or anything" but that she found that for her it wasn't hard.

Rihouey while in Madison presenting found out that she had actually received a WGSC award; a statewide recognition.

"I was invited for lunch, and I'm like, I was confused because I didn't know I won until that email, so I was like, what is it? Did I fill out something?" she said.

She found validation on another level from the presentation aspect and the award she won in Madison. "It feels good because it's not just like going to do my research, and then like nobody cares or anything, it's actually like, I feel like I can make change."

Her connection to France throughout the entire process was important to her, that while presenting Rihouey made connections.

"I met people, I met a French girl, because I'm the only one here, so every time I can catch them, I'm happy," she said.

Throughout her presentations and conversations with people, she was seeing people connect and find that "this is not just like a France issue or something, it's global."

Looking forward to the rest of her time at UW-Superior, Rihouey shared that she would love to continue to research. "That's what I figured out over the summer, I actually really enjoyed it, even if I was getting mad at some French people sometimes."

More than that, for her, "The idea of research, I actually like it, it's very interesting, and also, I love researching but also presenting about it."

Rihouey "would encourage



Maëlle Rihouey upon winning WGSC award in Madison, Wis.

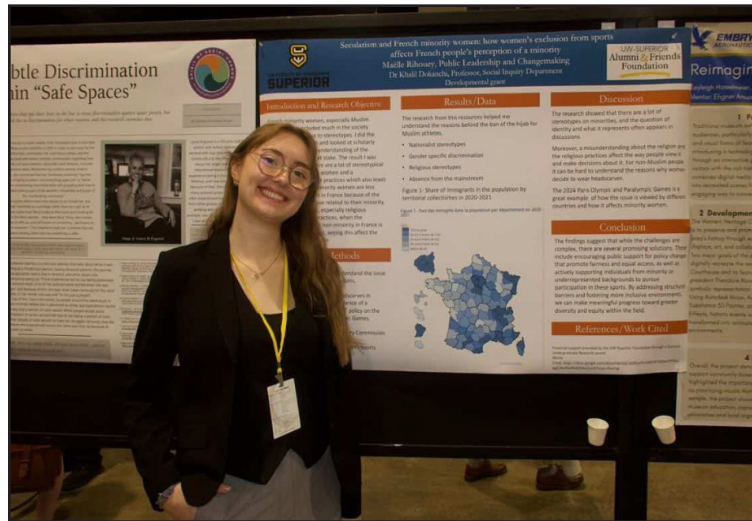
Contributed by Maëlle Rihouey

people to learn more about minorities and things like this...just, change has been made, even from past and stuff, and this is good, and it needs to continue and made even better, you know?"

She shared that through things like "just like people watching more women's sports, encouraging more, like, if you see something that is not equal or something, like fight against it, like in a way, and talk about religion, and learn more about different religions." She found through her research that prejudice often came from a lack of information.

Being a Public Leadership and Changemaking major, Rihouey has seen firsthand the ways that her and her classmates are able to make change, saying that for those interested, "You can make change, everywhere, anywhere, there's just so many topics and things you probably don't know."

She shares most importantly as a student that, "I mean, it hasn't always been easy, but I'm very glad I choose this school, that I tried these opportunities. Every time you have an opportunity, take it, try it, you might not have it, but you might, even if you don't, you learn, and I think it's one of the most important things."



Maëlle Rihouey presenting her research in Richmond, Virginia at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research.

Photo Contributed by Maëlle Rihouey

Promethean Advice Column Dear Dad and College Cousin, What makes a person friendly?

DEAR POSITIVITY
 ENTHUSIAST,

Nothing beats a genuine smile and a willingness to talk to someone. Fake smiles are easy to spot. The animal part of your brain immediately recognizes when someone is being phony and that's universal-off-putting.

I believe most people start life with a friendly demeanor, then bad experiences cause people to develop emotional armor in response.

If you're not sure what I'm talking about, try talking to a 14 year old girl. She'll probably immediately scowl at you, then roll her eyes and look away as a signal of how lame you are. Not a great way to start a friendly conversation.

This self-defense mechanism has been beaten into them by a judgmental society.

So smile genuinely, open up, be vulnerable and ask people questions. Some people can and will be jerks, but don't let that harden the friendly person you were born to be.

Also put down your phone.

Sincerely,
 Dad



DEAR POSITIVITY
 ENTHUSIAST,

I am going to start this out in the way that every single teacher and professor has told me to not start off a writing piece.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "friendly" as "relating to, or benefiting a friend: such as showing kindly interest and goodwill, having or showing the feelings that friends have for each other."

Being friendly at it's core is just about working towards being someone that can easily be approached, and more importantly, being open to anyone interacting with you. I would like to think that I am a friendly person, and all of my friends are people who I would say are friendly.

But I think a huge distinction is if you think someone is friendly, or if you think someone is approachable. I have lovely friends that oftentimes look like they are going to kill whoever comes up to them next.

Being friendly is about doing what you can to bridge that awkward gap that you have right after you meet someone.

Working to be able to be that person is scary, it really is, but I think more than that, it's something that requires you to be able to want to connect with people.

Have fun making friends (it never gets easier),
 Your Cool College Cousin

Hyper-Local in Duluth

Cheyenne Warner
cwarner8@uwsuper.edu

A new grocery store is arriving this upcoming summer in Duluth, Minn. the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Kitchen Grocery. LNPk Grocery will be located right between Happy Sleeper and TBI Residential & Community Services on 2013 West Superior Street in Duluth.

Eco3 is an urban farm that produces fresh food and educational space for community building and is going to be the main grocer for the LNPk.

Food Access and Community Wellness Specialist Toussaint Stewart said, "We will be what I call, a 'hyper-local.' One of the only stores that has their farm yielding from only two miles away. This aspect of seed to store is going to be one of our niches."

The majority of produce from LNPk grocery is grown on the Lake Superior College campus through a program that was once available to LSC students until the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now growing strong, the LSC crops are yielding fresh produce now better than ever.

Stewart is also a community member who grows his own crops. He speaks on the positive impact growing from his own soil has had on his life. "When you get into the process of seeding, growing, and then



Toussaint Stewart in front of LNPk Grocery.
 Contributed by Toussaint Stewart

cultivating your own food, you deepen that relationship...as a community."

He had brought up the Duluth Community Garden Program; a non-profit organization that provides land, infrastructure, and support for local communities to grow food together.

According to their website, the Duluth Community Garden Program manages 22 garden sites across the city of Duluth, though the program is now retired.

Stewart can be contacted by email toussaint@ecolobrium3.org or by phone 510-485-4274.